

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # _____

APP # 700291

A. Statement of Planning Objectives

The Potato Butte area is located on the Lassen National Forest, Hat Creek District approximately 2 miles south of Old Station, CA at T.32N. R.5E. Sec.16. MDM. The area is at approximately 4500 feet in elevation in pine/oak woodland community. The geology and soils of the area are primarily volcanic ash and lava flows. This area has been used for several decades as an OHV area by the local community and the extended community of Redding and adjacent areas. Some OHV activity occurs during the winter depending on snow occurrence and depth. Snowmobile activity occurs when snow depths are adequate. Numerous visitor created ATV trails exist as well as several "bowls" created and favored by motorcycles. No significant watercourses exist on the project area. The project area is approximately 2500 acres in size.

This project would include the planning for development of a recognized OHV area at the Potato Butte location. Phase I would use grant funds to gather natural, cultural and recreational resource information (environmental analysis) necessary to complete an environmental assessment. Phase II will use the information from Phase I to identify areas of concern including management issues and needs. A Management Plan would be prepared to address the ongoing OHV use of the area including resource damage issues. Effects of proposed activities would be documented and analyzed as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The public will be encouraged to participate throughout the planning process.

Project Deliverables

1. OHV Management Plan
2. Environmental Assessment
3. Decision Notice

B. Relation of Proposed Project to OHV Recreation

This project will ensure that the OHV recreational opportunities currently present and enjoyed by the local communities and the greater northern portion of the Central Valley will continue into the future. Under the proposed Travel Management Plan for the Lassen National Forest many of the user created OHV trails within the proposed project area would be non-authorized routes and would be closed to use. This may affect the OHV opportunities in the Potato Buttes area by restricting OHV use to the surrounding Forest Service roads currently open to all vehicle traffic. OHV or quad trails would not be permitted in this area under the Travel Management Plan. The project area is in a dispersed use area with no recreation support facilities. Visual counts conducted on various weekends indicate OHV use ranging from 75 to 300 OHV's in and adjacent to the project area depending on the weekend/holiday. Day use OHV parking occurs within the project area. Some dispersed camping occurs in the project area with most camping within two or three miles of the project area. This project would designate authorized OHV trails and routes within the area through the environmental assessment process and the development of a management plan. New OHV trails may be developed and support facilities would be planned to enhance and sustain the OHV recreational experience. The nearest authorized OHV recreation area is approximately ninety five miles northwest of the project site on the west side of Shasta Lake on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest.

C. Statement of Activities

Under this proposal, the Forest Service will complete an environmental analysis, OHV management plan and environmental assessment (EA) for the Potato Butte Area. The overall goal of the management plan is to complete a recreation strategy (or vision) to provide an acceptable level of user satisfaction while mitigating natural and cultural resource impacts to the area. The recreation strategy would consider the following:

- Establishment of carrying capacity levels for the area.
- Determination of need for visitor permits and whether there will be a fee.
- Identification and location of dispersed campsites to reduce recreation related impacts including site containment, dispersal and concentration, etc.

- Location and extent of trailhead developments.
- Location of sanitation facilities if desired.
- Location of designated trails and types of vehicles allowed on them.
- Adoption of seasonal travel restrictions (if needed).
- Location of non-motorized trails.
- Sign plan to both educate and direct travelers in the area.
- Law enforcement plan to determine the desired level of law enforcement presence.
- Establishment of visitor group size guidelines.
- Annual operations and maintenance plan, including the size of the desired Forest Service workforce and volunteer cadre to implement.
- Visitor education and outreach plan.
- Plan to protect adjacent private property and the Pacific Crest Trail.
- Monitoring plan to assess effectiveness of management actions and mitigation techniques.
- Heritage stewardship plan to protect archaeological sites if present, and create a volunteer site steward program.
- Collaboration plan to promote on-going community and user participation in OHV planning and management of the Potato Butte area.

From the Management Plan, a set of proposed actions, or project activities, would be developed to begin implementing any changes to the landscape necessitated by the management strategy. These actions could include trailhead development, restoration activities to close undesired trails and campsites, trail maintenance activities such as drainage improvements, trail redesign or reroute, and management activities such as changes to land allocations or allocation boundaries.

An environmental analysis would be conducted to determine the direct, indirect and cumulative effects of the proposed action as required by NEPA. Effects of the proposed action on wildlife, plants, soils watershed, cultural resources, and Threatened, Endangered or Sensitive aquatic, plant terrestrial or avian species would be analyzed and documented. Effects analyses and the Environmental Assessment would be prepared by either qualified private consultants or Forest Service staff. Alternative methods of achieving the desired end results (vision) would also be considered as part of the environmental analysis process. The Hat Creek District Ranger will make his decision on the best alternative to implement.

An extensive effort to involve the public and other State and local agencies in these planning processes will be needed. A consultant may be hired to assist the Forest Service with public involvement and scoping. This would include a series of news releases, workshops, field trips and public meetings. Participants in the planning process will be invited to comment on the proposed action and draft environmental documents. Alternatives and comments from the public will be analyzed and incorporated in the final documents, which will then be shared with individuals and agencies who participated.

The deliverables completed with this project would be the basis for starting Phase II - Implementation of the Potato Butte OHV project. Phase II Implementation would accomplish desired site restoration and development activities identified in the Decision. A separate OHV application will be submitted in the future for Phase II.

D. List of Reports

1. OHV Management Plan
2. Environmental Assessment (Draft and Final)
3. Decision Notice & Finding of No Significant Impacts

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1. Timeline for Completion

Attachments:

[Planning project timeline](#)

2. Optional Project-Specific Application Documents

Attachments:

[Project area photographs](#)

3. Optional Project-specific Maps

Attachments:

[Map of Proposed Potato Butte OHV Area](#)

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009
 Agency: USFS - Lassen National Forest
 Application: Planning - Potato Buttes OHV Area Management Plan

6/2/2009

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:		Version # _____	APP # _____
APPLICANT NAME :	USFS - Lassen National Forest		
PROJECT TITLE :	Planning - Potato Buttes OHV Area Management Plan	PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :	
PROJECT TYPE :	<div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap;"> <div style="width: 50%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition</div> <div style="width: 50%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Development</div> <div style="width: 50%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety</div> <div style="width: 50%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations</div> <div style="width: 50%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement</div> <div style="width: 50%;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Planning</div> <div style="width: 50%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Restoration</div> </div>		
PROJECT DESCRIPTION :	<p>The Potato Butte area is located on the Lassen National Forest, Hat Creek District approximately 2 miles south of Old Station, CA at T.32N. R.5E. Sec.16. MDM. The area is at approximately 4500 feet in elevation in pine/oak woodland community. The geology and soils of the area are primarily volcanic ash and lava flows. This area has been used for several decades as an OHV area by the local community and the extended community of Redding and adjacent areas. Some OHV activity occurs during the winter depending on snow occurrence and depth. Snowmobile activity occurs when snow depths are adequate. Numerous visitor created ATV trails exist as well as several "bowls" created and favored by motorcycles. No significant watercourses exist on the project area. The project area is approximately 2500 acres in size.</p> <p>This project would include the planning for development of a recognized OHV area at the Potato Butte location. Phase I would use grant funds to gather natural, cultural and recreational resource information (environmental analysis) necessary to complete an environmental assessment. Phase II will use the information from Phase I to identify areas of concern including management issues and needs. A Management Plan would be prepared to address the ongoing OHV use of the area including resource damage issues. Effects of proposed activities would be documented and analyzed as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The public will be encouraged to participate throughout the planning process.</p> <p>Project Deliverables</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. OHV Management Plan 2. Environmental Assessment 3. Decision Notice 		

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
DIRECT EXPENSES							
Program Expenses							
1	Staff						
	Management Staff	20.000	459.000	DAY	0.00	9,180.00	9,180.00
	Management Staff	16.000	531.000	DAY	0.00	8,496.00	8,496.00
	Resources Staff	70.000	308.000	DAY	0.00	21,560.00	21,560.00
	Resources Staff	25.000	323.000	DAY	0.00	8,075.00	8,075.00
	Field Office Staff	35.000	272.000	DAY	4,760.00	4,760.00	9,520.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009
Agency: USFS - Lassen National Forest
Application: Planning - Potato Buttes OHV Area Management Plan

6/2/2009

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Total for Staff				4,760.00	52,071.00	56,831.00
2	Contracts						
	Other-Contract for OHV Management Strate	1.000	71200.000		71,200.00	0.00	71,200.00
	Other-Contract for Environmental Assessm	1.000	163600.000		163,600.00	0.00	163,600.00
	Total for Contracts				234,800.00	0.00	234,800.00
3	Materials / Supplies						
	Misc Supplies to support Program	2500.000	1.000	EA	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
4	Equipment Use Expenses						
	Field Vehicle	2500.000	0.500	MI	0.00	1,250.00	1,250.00
5	Equipment Purchases						
6	Others						
7	Administrative Costs						
	Administrative Costs-Admin Costs	1.000	29500.000		0.00	29,500.00	29,500.00
	Total Program Expenses				239,560.00	85,321.00	324,881.00
	TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES				239,560.00	85,321.00	324,881.00
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES				239,560.00	85,321.00	324,881.00

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009
Agency: USFS - Lassen National Forest
Application: Planning - Potato Buttes OHV Area Management Plan

6/2/2009

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
DIRECT EXPENSES					
Program Expenses					
1	Staff	4,760.00	52,071.00	56,831.00	
2	Contracts	234,800.00	0.00	234,800.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	0.00	1,250.00	1,250.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6	Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	
7	Administrative Costs	0.00	29,500.00	29,500.00	
Total Program Expenses		239,560.00	85,321.00	324,881.00	
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES		239,560.00	85,321.00	324,881.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		239,560.00	85,321.00	324,881.00	

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ITEM 1 and ITEM 2

ITEM 1

- a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No
(Please select Yes or No)

ITEM 2

- b. ITEM 2 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? ☐ Yes ☒ No
(Please select Yes or No)
- c. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No
- d. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 3 – 9
Planning only

ITEM 3 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands

ITEM 4 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project

ITEM 5 - Soil Impacts

ITEM 6 - Damage to Scenic Resources

ITEM 7 - Hazardous Materials

Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

ITEM 8 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the potential impacts and for any substantially adverse changes in the significance of historical or cultural resources and measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the impacts.

ITEM 9 - Indirect Significant Impacts

CEQA/NEPA Attachment

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1. Project Cost Estimate - Q 1. (Auto populates from Cost Estimate)

1. As calculated on the Project Cost Estimate, the percentage of the Project costs covered by the Applicant is 3

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ 76% or more (10 points) ☐ 51% - 75% (5 points)
☒ 26% - 50% (3 points) ☐ 25% (Match minimum) (No points)

2. Planning Project - Q 2.

A Planning Project - Page 1

2. The Planning Project would address the following 4

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Potential effects of OHV Recreation on special-status species habitats
☒ Potential effects of OHV Recreation on cultural resources
☒ Potential effects of OHV Recreation on soil conditions
☒ Potential effects of OHV Recreation on water quality
☒ Potential effects of OHV Recreation on other recreation uses
☒ Potential effects of OHV Recreation on adjacent lands.
☒ Potential impact to relationships between OHV Recreation and local residents
☐ Toxic or hazardous materials within a Project Area or adjacent property that may impact OHV Recreation
☒ Trail issues such as traffic patterns, trails closures, appropriate uses, etc.

B. Planning Project - Page 2

Explain each statement that was checked

The planning project will examine the potential effects on special status species habitats (if present), cultural resources, soils, water quality, other recreation uses, adjacent lands, local residences, and trail issues. This would be done through internal scoping of specialists in wildlife, archeologist, hydrologist, soils, lands and recreation specialist and management. When and if issues arise regarding the potential effects on resources present in the project area, design features would be developed in coordination with resource specialists and/or the affected publics, and would be integrated into project design. Best Management Practices be used for project planning and would be identified for proposed project work.

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☒ 6 or more items checked (4 points) ☐ 4 to 5 items checked (3 points)
☐ 2 to 3 items checked (2 points) ☐ 1 or no items checked (No points)

3. Motorized Access - Q 3.

3. The Project would lead to improved facilities that provide motorized access to the following nonmotorized recreation opportunities 6

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 2 points each, up to a maximum of 6 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Camping ☒ Birding
☒ Hiking ☒ Equestrian trails
☒ Fishing ☐ Rock Climbing
☐ Other (Specify)

4. Public Input - Q 4.

4. The Project proposal was developed with public input employing the following 1

(Check all that apply) Scoring: Maximum of 2 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Meeting(s) with the general public to discuss Project (1 point)
☐ Conference call(s) with interested parties (1 point)
☒ Meeting(s) with stakeholders (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

This project was developed from comments and concerns received in the field at and near the project site from the public about the Forest Service Travel Management Plan and its affect on use of their OHV. These comments came from local residents who use the area for OHV as well as the more distant users.

5. Stakeholder Input - Q 5.

5. If the Project were approved, the planning process would incorporate substantial stakeholder input: 5

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ No (No points) ☒ Yes (5 points)

If 'Yes', explain, specifically, how it would be 'substantial'. Identify stakeholders

An extensive effort to involve the public and other State and local agencies in these planning processes will be needed. A consultant may be hired to assist the Forest Service with public involvement and scoping. This would include a series of news releases, workshops, field trips and public meetings. Participants in the planning process will be invited to comment on the proposed action and draft environmental documents. Alternatives and comments from the public will be analyzed and incorporated in the final documents, which will then be shared with individuals and agencies who participated.

6. Utilization of Partnerships - Q 6.

6. The Project will utilize partnerships to successfully accomplish the Project. The number of partner organizations that will participate in the Project are 1

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ 4 or more (4 points) ☐ 2 to 3 (2 points)
☒ 1 (1 point) ☐ None (No points)

List partner organization(s)

Pacific Crest Trail Association.

Additional partners will be sought as a part of the public involvement effort that will be conducted with this project.

7. Sustain OHV Opportunity - Q 7.

7. The Planning Project sustains OHV Opportunity in the following manner 14

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Project will develop management plans for existing OHV Opportunity (4 points)
☒ Project will complete environmental review for an OHV Development Project (3 points)
☒ Project supports development of OHV Opportunities adjacent to population centers (3 points)
☒ Project supports development of OHV Opportunities in areas that lack legal OHV Opportunity (2 points)
☒ Project will develop a system of designated OHV routes for an existing OHV Opportunity (2 points)

Explain each statement that was checked

This project will ensure that the OHV recreational opportunities currently present and enjoyed by the public will continue into the future. Currently there are no recreation support facilities within the project area, new OHV trails may be developed and support facilities would be planned to enhance and sustain the OHV recreational experience. The nearest authorized OHV recreation area is approximately 95 miles northwest of the project site on the west side of Shasta Lake on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest.

8. Identification of Funding Sources - Q 8.

8. Funds for implementing the completed plan have been identified 5

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

☐ No (No points)

☒ Yes (5 points)

Explain 'Yes' response

Forest Service appropriated funds will be used to provide match requirements.

Reference Document

Annual Forest Service Appropriated Budget

9. Offsite Impacts - Q 9.

9. The Planning Project would address offsite impacts relative to the Project Area (e.g., sound, fugitive dust, runoff): 5

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

☐ No (No points)

☒ Yes (5 points)

Explain 'Yes' response

Direct, indirect and cumulative effects of the project action will be considered in the environmental assessment.